



**Vulnerability &
Policing Futures**
Research Centre

ESRC Vulnerability & Policing Futures Research Centre

Annual Report 2026

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Introduction

Co-hosted by the University of Leeds and the University of York, the Vulnerability & Policing Futures Research Centre aims to reshape how the police and other organisations work together to reduce harm among vulnerable people in society.

Our annual report highlights the breadth and impact of our work over the past year. This includes cutting-edge research addressing some of the most pressing challenges facing the UK today, including modern slavery, homelessness, public trust and confidence in policing, and the experiences of racially minoritised young people and community leaders in relation to youth violence and safety.

This progress is made possible by the strength of our community. We are grateful for the ongoing support and collaboration of our 38 partners, alongside our co-investigators, postdoctoral researchers, PhD students, international advisors and research affiliates. Together, they create a dynamic and highly impactful network.

As we enter the final year of our ESRC funding, we are focused on securing the Centre's long-term legacy and impact. We have already made strong progress, including securing

new funding through the UK Government's Safer Streets mission, alongside a growing portfolio of European and domestic grants.

Alongside this, we are developing a new Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme to equip practitioners with the knowledge, skills and confidence to respond effectively to vulnerability. Combined with our ongoing community engagement, this ensures our research translates into meaningful, real-world impact for professionals – and, most importantly, for vulnerable individuals.

We are ambitious and focused as we move into the next 12 months, committed to delivering tangible outcomes and sustaining the Centre's impact well beyond its current funding period.



The Centre in numbers



56 projects, comprising:

31 Centre research projects
(including **18 Data Science** projects)

22 funded research projects

3 demonstration projects



74 publications to date
comprising

22



journal articles

3



book chapters

16



blogs/online articles

33



reports



22

grants awarded
by the Centre



Centre findings shared at 16
external conferences/events,
nationally & internationally



42
research
affiliates

£4.8m

in additional funding since the
Centre commenced, comprised of



£1.59m
from York/Leeds, and

£3.2m
across **22** awards
from external funders

Progress over the past year

Research progress

While many of our research projects have completed their active research phases, a number are ongoing, or indeed formally commenced during the past 12 months. In particular there has been a renewed focus on engagement with communities and People with lived experience (PWLE) through both of the newest projects:

- Our project focusing on the experiences of young people of colour in Harehills, Leeds – **Changing the Narrative** – is well under way, engaging with community organisations and young people, via a range of participatory action, community-led and creative methods. The project has established a Youth Advisory Board as well as formal (funded) partnerships with four key community organisations.
- The **Diversion** project has confirmed ethical approval and is using the input from people with lived experience (through collaboration with partner Revolving Doors) to shape planned research with police forces.

Data Science work continues to explore and test the safety of AI tools in a policing context, building on the published research on use of large language models to identify vulnerability in incident logs. New projects in the Connected Data Analytics Programme focus on developing new methods to quantify patterns of crime in and around schools, and on exploring the relationship between school commutes and educational outcomes. The Centre-affiliated Concentrations of Crime work (funded through the UKRI Safer Streets programme) successfully completed and funding for phase 2 of this work has been confirmed.

The **Minimum Policing Standard** research has completed two further rounds of fieldwork comprising focus groups with frontline police officers late in 2025, and with senior police officers during March – April 2026, both across multiple police forces in England. Preparations are now in hand for the second national public survey related to this work.

The **Modern Slavery** and **Homelessness** studies are nearing completion of fieldwork. The Modern Slavery team have conducted focus groups with professionals and people with lived experience across six modern slavery ‘topics’ identified from the earlier analysis of secondary police data. Groups

have been carried out in collaboration with specialist third sector partner organisations, to whom payment has been made for their involvement, and have been carried out over Teams, as well as in person in Manchester, Sheffield and Tirana, Albania. The Homelessness team plans to interview national-level stakeholders as the final phase of data collection, now in hand. Interviews with people with lived experience of homelessness are being coded and analysed; the team is preparing to share findings at a range of conferences over the summer.



Events

The Centre hosted a vibrant in-person summer school during July 2025 for 21 participants conducting PhD research aligned with the Centre (from nine different countries), who were selected from a highly competitive field of 75 applicants following an open call. Read about the week in our [news item](#), and in this [blog article](#) by one of the participants, Centre-affiliated PhD candidate, Sat Kartar Kaur Chandan.

Centre research was shared at a wide range of national and international conferences as summarised at the end of this report. A number of Centre colleagues attended and presented at the 7th International Law Enforcement and Public Health Conference, Ottawa, Canada, during July 2025. As well as being a productive opportunity for networking and sharing the Centre's research, it was hugely beneficial for the team to meet with and learn from the organisers and hosts at the University of Ottawa, ahead of the Centre hosting the event in Leeds in 2026. Planning for the 8th International Conference is well underway, having been suitably trailed by a performance from a local brass band in Ottawa; building excitement for Yorkshire this year! The Leeds event already has a packed programme in place and registrations sitting at more than 300 at the time of writing. Find out more at leph2026.org, including a [structured analysis of key conference themes](#) around vulnerability, law enforcement and public health.

The Centre's [second annual conference](#) welcomed c. 180 attendees to Leeds across two days in September 2025; blog posts following on from the event include [Darren McGarvey's keynote address](#) and a [piece](#) from Centre PhD researcher Storm Marsh-Smith giving an overview of key themes.

Impact work

As we've entered the final year of the ESRC five-year grant, the team has sought to ensure a renewed focus on capitalising on opportunities for impact, including creating the new role of Impact and Knowledge Exchange Officer to support this, as well as identifying key priority areas with good potential for further impact over the coming 12–24 months, and ringfencing of funding to support this work. Some of the priority areas are highlighted in the case studies later in this year's report.

Three Continuous Professional Development (CPD) 'offers' have been developed for police and other practitioners, building on the Centre's research findings.

- **Crossing the Line** – Resources from the Demonstration Project on multi-agency responses to young people caught up in county lines drug trafficking, including a short film and associated training aids, were launched in March 2026 at an event at Hyde Park Picture House, Leeds and via a CareKnowledge webinar attended by 500+ practitioners from police, social care, education, housing, health and the third sector. There has been significant interest in resources with requests for workshops from police forces, children's social care, and from two regional organised crime units (ROCs) to incorporate resources into HYDRA training, as well as requests to use the resources in teaching from two other universities.
- **Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse** – Following completion of consultation workshops with West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership, the team has developed an outline for a 3-hour CPD session, supported by an interactive Quality Standards Framework and resources. Resources for the training will be based on two real-life case studies that professionals are asked to work through; the team is currently working to commission a creative company to help develop the package.
- **Vulnerability Awareness** – A plan for this broad vulnerability awareness training for police frontline staff, including objectives and scenarios, has been drafted. The team is seeking quotes from production companies to produce short film clips for the scenarios. Several police forces have expressed early interest in piloting the training.

The **Holmegrown demonstration project** in Bradford is well underway and having consulted with a range of alternative education providers is preparing



to deliver a programme to support and inspire its first cohort of young people with poor school attendance, seeking to prevent them from becoming 'NEET' (not in education, employment or training).

Centre-funded projects

A total of 16 grants have now been awarded across four calls to the Centre's ECR Development Fund, which empowers ECRs to lead co-produced pioneering projects that contribute new findings and insights in the field of vulnerability and policing. Third round projects commenced May 2025 and are due to complete in the coming months, while a further three projects were awarded in the fourth and final round, in the autumn, looking at: procedural justice in the context of disability; improving frontline collaboration in relation to mental health; and application of 'child first' principles in multi-agency panels.

Five projects funded through the University of York's Faculty of Social Sciences have now completed, and the Centre has also awarded seven Translational Fellowship projects, with the most recently completed focusing on diversion – **'Identifying and promoting good practice in how to effectively resolve more crime without going to court'**.

Details of all Centre-funded projects awarded can be found online [on the Centre's website](#)

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Building on our earlier 'EDI Self Audit', the team created working groups to attend to key areas for improvement in this space, including anti-racist approaches – building on our [Anti-Racist Research Toolkit](#) – and community reciprocity. The team has shared responsibility for surfacing these issues to ensure they are prioritised in day-to-day work, and is working to produce outputs over the coming year, highlighting the challenges, our efforts to overcome them, and crucially, what we've learned in terms of practical implementation of principles to address EDI.

Centre team

We said goodbye to one of the Centre's original six postdoctoral researchers towards the end of 2025; Dr Christine Weirich left to take up a post at the Department for Work and Pensions. We welcomed Dr Diana Peel to the team to take up the vacant researcher post at Leeds. Dharmista Yadav also joined the Centre team in the newly created role of Impact and Knowledge Exchange Officer. As part of the Centre's approach to supporting emotionally demanding research, a new clinical supervision offer was introduced. Colleagues are encouraged to use this support to manage the emotional impact of their work. Training for the team and our associated PhDs included sessions on neurodiversity and trauma-informed approaches to research.



Featured projects delivering impact

These features showcase the stories behind our research, tracing projects from their initial ideas and capturing how they develop, evolve and ultimately create meaningful impact in practice.

WORKING TOGETHER TO TACKLE ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE VICTIMISATION

Bringing communities and safeguarding partners together to create evidence-based responses to online child sexual exploitation and abuse victimisation.

The reality of online harm

The scale and impact of online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA) is more significant than official numbers suggest. As digital spaces continue to evolve, professionals, parents, young people and children often struggle to keep pace with the increasingly complex ways OCSEA can occur.

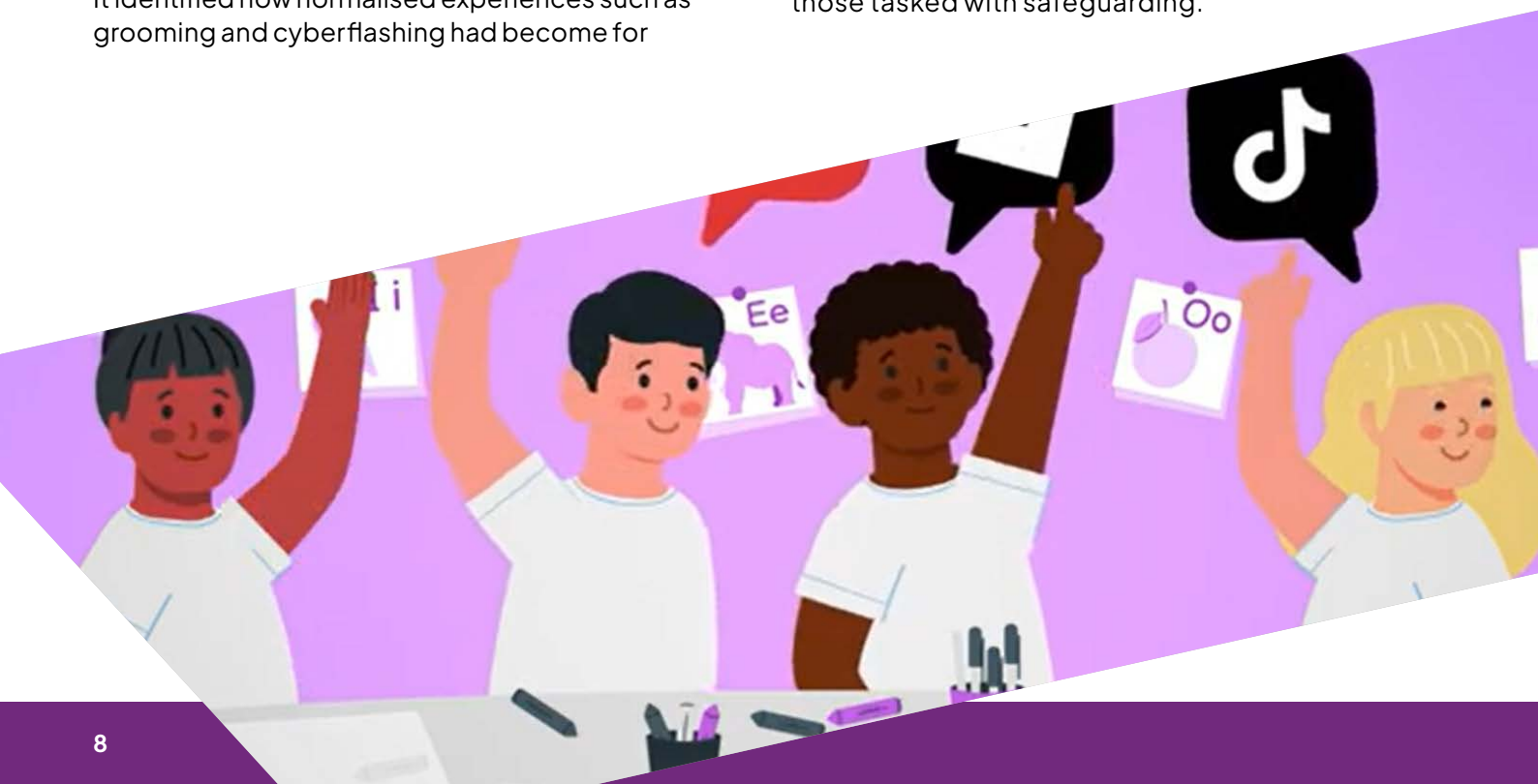
With this in mind, the research team sought to understand how local police, charities, education, social care, health, voluntary groups and the public – particularly parents and children – identify and address victimisation. Together, we developed a practical quality standards framework that local communities can adapt and use to better prevent and respond to OCSEA victimisation.

Our place-based research initially took place in Blackpool over the course of two years (2022–24). It identified how normalised experiences such as grooming and cyberflashing had become for

many young people. Consequently, young people felt that reporting was pointless or more trouble than it was worth. Some young people also feared repercussions of reporting or felt ashamed of their experiences.

We found that practitioners often lacked confidence, relevant skills and up-to-date knowledge when trying to address and prevent OCSEA victimisation. These challenges were frequently compounded by uncertainty or disagreement between agencies about where responsibility lies, particularly in cases of peer-on-peer abuse.

Adding to this, children often have more knowledge and better skills in navigating the online world than many adults, and a lot of safeguards put in place to protect them can be easily circumvented, creating additional challenges for those tasked with safeguarding.



Turning evidence into action with local communities

To translate research insights into practical solutions, we adopted a co-production approach that placed communities, and particularly young people and their families, at the heart of the work.

In late 2023, the Centre led a co-production 'visioning day' in Blackpool, bringing together young people and parents, community groups and youth clubs, police, charities, local authority representatives, and safeguarding professionals. The event created space for open discussion about how OCSEA responses are experienced locally and what meaningful responses should look like.

Together, participants identified and ranked best practice priorities for tackling OCSEA within the local area (see Figure 1).

Ranked Priorities

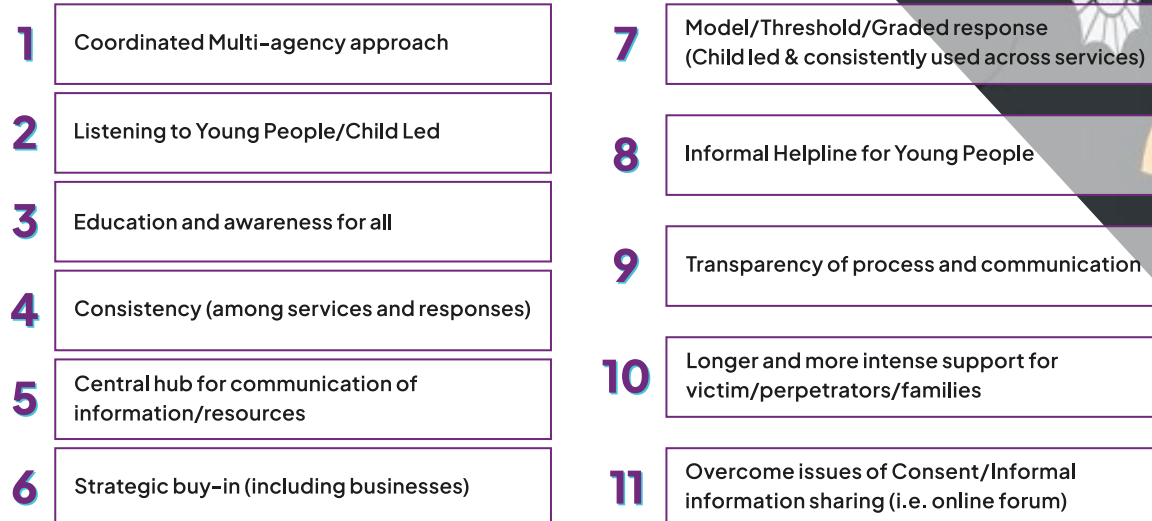


Figure 1

Following the visioning day, a multi-agency local action group then began working to implement these agreed priorities. This included exploring the role of youth-led action groups to ensure children's voices were central to decision-making. At the same time, researchers worked closely with partners to develop a set of good practice quality standards for multi-agency and community responses to OCSEA.

These standards translated research findings and lived experience into clear, practical expectations for safeguarding practice.

What changed: from Blackpool to West Yorkshire

The impact of this work has been felt both locally in Blackpool and beyond.

Recognising that OCSEA is a borderless issue, the team was keen to ensure the framework and quality standards could be adapted and applied in other places and regions. To support this, the Centre funded a demonstration project in West Yorkshire, supported by Dr Sarah Carlick, an independent safeguarding consultant, and the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership.

This collaboration led to the development of a 'theory of change' for West Yorkshire to address OCSEA victimisation. Following a regional event with key partners, specific tools and actions were explored to translate the Theory of Change into practice. The demonstration project showed that the framework could be adapted, implemented, and scaled to support responses in different local contexts.

In Blackpool, the work has contributed to significant changes in safeguarding practice. Blackpool Council has introduced a new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) strategy, which incorporates the quality standards co-developed by the Centre and local communities. Awaken, a specialist multi-agency child criminal and sexual exploitation team, has embedded some of the identified quality standards into its multi-agency training offer, delivered to partners four times a year.

Technology-focused questions have also been integrated into Early Help and Children and Family Assessment processes, ensuring practitioners consider a child's online world regardless of the initial reason for referral.

In schools, a pilot co-production approach is developing Online and Technology Champions, enabling young people to address key themes with their peers and share emerging online trends with Awaken workers based in schools. This has been positively received and has generated interest from other schools keen to be involved.

Building on the momentum

Building on the success of this work, the Centre is now developing its findings and recommendations into a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) offer focused on reflective multi-agency responses to OCSEA, informed by the views of children and young people, their parents and guardians.

The CPD team is working with the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership on the CPD offer and resource pack using the quality standards created through the research. This will be rolled out to organisations and professionals working in policing, education, social care, health and a variety of other multi-agency safeguarding roles. It aims to support consistent practice, encouraging partnership working, and helping embed the standards across different services and regions.

Together, this ongoing work demonstrates how research, when developed alongside communities and practitioners, can lead to sustainable and scalable change in responses to online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

FROM ENFORCEMENT TO SAFEGUARDING: IMPROVING RESPONSES TO EXPLOITATION IN DRUG MARKETS

From evidence to action: how our research is helping police and partners rethink responses to criminal exploitation in drug markets.

Understanding county lines and criminal exploitation

The practice of drug dealers from cities expanding their operations into smaller towns to sell Class A drugs, known as County Lines, has expanded rapidly across the UK to become a dominant drug market model for the supply of heroin and crack cocaine outside large urban areas.

Vulnerable people, including children, are often groomed, manipulated and/or coerced into carrying and selling drugs, with supply managed via the use of dedicated mobile phone lines.

County lines drug supply has highlighted the use of child criminal exploitation (CCE) and criminally exploited vulnerable adults (CE) in drug market operations. Whilst CCE is not new, the spread of county lines has increased the numbers of, and geographical spread of, criminally exploited children in the drug trade to unprecedented levels.

Voices from policing, practice and experience

To investigate this, the team undertook the UK's first national study of police responses to county lines drug distribution and related child and adult criminal exploitation. The team conducted 50 semi-structured interviews with force leads on county lines or exploitation from 44 of the 45 UK territorial police forces and British Transport Police.

This national picture of county lines policing was further enhanced by complementary place-based research in three locations, which involved interviews with police officers, statutory agencies, NGOs and people with lived experience of exploitation in drug markets.

Throughout the study, the research team engaged directly with people with lived experience through our partner Revolving Doors' 'Experts by Experience group' and worked closely with an advisory group of policing, voluntary sector and academic experts. This ensured findings were informed by both professional insight and lived reality.

The research revealed that exploitation is the defining feature of modern drug markets rather than geographical spread from cities to towns. Many forces described growing levels of locally organised drug supply relying on child and adult criminal exploitation, indicating that policing responses must focus less on market structure and more on harm and vulnerability.



Shifting the conversation: from enforcement to safeguarding

The study found evidence of a cultural shift within policing, with greater recognition of CCE/CE and a growing willingness to adopt and support safeguarding approaches rather than relying solely on investigation and prosecution. However, this shift has not been felt consistently “on the ground”, with enforcement-based approaches still dominant. People with lived experience expressed scepticism about whether policing could change enough to support trusting, protective relationships.

A key barrier identified was training. Most officers had received little or no specific training on CCE or criminal exploitation, and generic vulnerability training was widely viewed as insufficient. This lack of awareness continues to hinder movement away from enforcement-led responses towards approaches grounded in victimhood and safeguarding.

In response, the Centre has worked extensively with police forces and safeguarding partners across the UK to share findings and recommendations. This included presenting at national and local events, publishing reports, briefing the Home Office, and responding to a call for evidence linked to the Crime and Policing Bill.

Changing practice on the ground: what comes next

Building on these findings, the Centre undertook a follow-on demonstration project exploring the experiences of children and young people labelled as ‘alpha victims’ — those who are initially exploited themselves but may then be coerced into exploiting others. The project addressed evidence that these children are often viewed primarily as offenders rather than victims by criminal justice and safeguarding professionals.

The work prompted open discussion about how so-called ‘alpha victims’ are understood and responded to, challenging assumptions about agency and highlighting the adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and systemic failures that increase vulnerability to exploitation.

To support this, the team developed a comprehensive suite of practitioner resources focused on

recognising ‘alpha victims’ and identifying signs and risk factors for criminal exploitation. These include a short film, a podcast, workshop materials, training plans, worksheets and an online resource bank.

The resources were launched through a film premiere held in Leeds and a Care Knowledge webinar attended by more than 500 practitioners from across the UK and Jersey, which has since been accessed thousands of times. Demand for this work has continued to grow, leading to the development of a CPD course and a significant number of training, webinar and speaking requests from different police forces and agencies across the UK.

If you are interested in accessing the resources or booking training, please contact vulnerabilitypolicing@york.ac.uk or visit:

[Crossing the Line: Rethinking the ‘Alpha Victim’](#)

WHAT THE PUBLIC EXPECTS FROM POLICING – AND WHY NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING IS SO IMPORTANT

As policing faces rising demands and public scepticism, research from the Vulnerability & Policing Futures Research Centre highlights what the public expects from local policing, and how meeting those expectations could restore trust.

Why trust in policing is under strain

Relations between the police and the public are widely understood to be at a low point. Trust and confidence in policing have been declining for close to a decade, shaped by a combination of high-profile scandals, persistent service pressures, and everyday experiences that do not always align with public expectations.

There is a clear tension in how people judge the police. When asked about priorities, members of the public consistently emphasise crimes such as sexual offending and serious violence. Yet their overall confidence in policing is shaped just as much, if not more, by how officers behave in everyday encounters, particularly in relation to so-called “low-level” issues such as anti-social behaviour, visibility in neighbourhoods, and responsiveness to community concerns.

At the same time, police officers are increasingly expected to respond to issues that sit beyond traditional criminal enforcement, including homelessness and mental health crises. This raises

fundamental questions about what the police should be responsible for, where the boundaries of policing lie, and what kind of service the public can reasonably expect in an era of stretched resources and rising demands.

Understanding how people assess policing — and what they believe constitutes an acceptable standard of service — is therefore critical. Doing so offers a way to address declining confidence, manage expectations, and re-frame the role of local policing in the context of contemporary social challenges.

Defining what the public expects from policing

Against this backdrop, the ESRC Vulnerability & Policing Futures Research Centre set out to explore what members of the public think the police should, at a minimum, be able to provide.

Drawing inspiration from the concept of a “minimum income standard”, the research team adapted this methodology to develop a **Minimum Policing Standard**: a shared, evidence-based understanding of the services and activities the police should normally be able to deliver to everyone.

The research began with three rounds of deliberative focus groups held across England, in Leeds, Lancaster, Lichfield and London. Each group brought together participants aged between 18 and 75, enabling discussion across generations and life

experiences. Participants were asked to consider what policing should look like in their communities, what behaviours mattered most, and what baseline level of service they felt was reasonable to expect.

Building on these insights, the Centre commissioned polling company Verian to conduct a population-representative survey across England, Wales and Scotland. The survey tested attitudes to the Minimum Policing Standard at scale, generating a national picture of public expectations and perceptions of current police performance.

The findings revealed a clear and concerning pattern. Many respondents did not believe the police are consistently meeting minimum standards of service provision, particularly in areas linked to neighbourhood policing — such as visibility, availability, and responsiveness. While confidence was relatively higher when respondents were asked about professionalism and respectful treatment by individual officers, significantly fewer felt that police build strong relationships with communities or with young people.

Across multiple measures, perceptions of police presence in local areas were notably weak. Overall, the survey painted a picture that closely reflects wider concerns about the state of police-public



relations: trust appears fragile, confidence uneven, and expectations frequently unmet.

From evidence to influence: what the findings are changing

Despite this challenging picture, research also points to a clear opportunity. While current efforts to rebuild trust in policing tend to focus on crime reduction, internal reform, and rooting out misconduct, the Minimum Policing Standard highlights that revitalising neighbourhood policing is key to restoring confidence.

People feel policing is falling short, not necessarily in tackling serious crime, but in being present and responsive in communities, prioritising local concerns, and building relationships over time. When police meet a minimum standard in these areas, members of the public are more likely to trust them to perform other, less visible aspects of police work appropriately and fairly.

Encouragingly, the research reveals strong alignment between what the public expect, and what frontline officers and senior police leaders see as the core components of good local policing. However, it also reveals tensions between these aspirations and the operational realities shaping service delivery.

The project team have found that resource constraints and internal decision-making structures that prioritise certain outcomes over community-focused policing are barriers to a shared vision of policing. Treating local, relationship-based policing as expendable risks damaging public trust and legitimacy. To address this, policing needs both honest conversations with the public about limits and internal reform to align processes, priorities, and values with the service officers and communities expect.

The Centre's team have been working with key figures in the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and College of Policing to share the research and help inform national conversations about trust and confidence and initiatives aimed at rebuilding neighbourhood policing. This includes contributing to NPCC-led Trust and Confidence Symposium, working with the College of Policing, and sharing findings with the team responsible for delivering the Government's Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee under the Safer Streets Mission.

Centre Co-Director Professor Adam Crawford also presented the research at the APCC-NPCC Summit in late 2024, bringing the evidence directly to senior police leaders, Police and Crime Commissioners, and policymakers involved in shaping the future of policing.

Setting the agenda for neighbourhood policing

This research and wider engagement come at a crucial moment of both opportunity and risk for policing. Following years of declining officer numbers, the recent uplift has resulted in a workforce that is young and inexperienced.

This demographic shift places significant pressure on relatively new officers to deliver high-quality, trust-building interactions at the neighbourhood level. At the same time, it creates an opportunity: newer recruits may be more open to evidence-informed practice, less constrained by entrenched cultures, and more willing to approach policing through a lens of engagement and procedural fairness.

The Centre continues to work with key partners — including the College of Policing, NPCC, Police Foundation and the Home Office — to ensure that the Minimum Policing Standard informs policy development, workforce training, and neighbourhood policing reforms. Looking ahead, the Centre will publish a dedicated report examining the implications of the research for the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, and will contribute evidence to the forthcoming Police Reform White Paper.

By grounding reform efforts in what the public experience and value, the Centre's work can support a more credible, transparent, and sustainable approach to rebuilding trust and confidence in policing — starting in neighbourhoods, where legitimacy is most keenly felt.

RETHINKING RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC ABUSE: LEARNING FROM GREATER MANCHESTER AND VICTORIA

Comparative research from the Centre is helping policymakers navigate complex choices around accountability, prevention and perpetrator intervention in domestic abuse responses.

Why perpetrator-focused responses matter

Across the globe, responding to gender-based violence, in particular domestic abuse, has risen up policy agendas over the last 50 years. Yet despite this increased attention, effective strategies for engaging with and responding to perpetrators of abuse remain scarce, contested, and unevenly implemented.

In the UK, this challenge sits alongside broader pressures on services supporting victim-survivors, creating complex questions about where resources should be directed, how accountability and rehabilitation can coexist, and what meaningful prevention looks like in practice.

Against this backdrop, Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) became the first local authority in England to publish a ten-year Gender-Based Violence Strategy in 2021. The strategy was explicitly informed by international learning, particularly reforms introduced in the state of Victoria, Australia, following its Royal Commission into Family Violence (2015).

This provided a unique opportunity to explore how a long-term, system-wide approach to domestic abuse, including responses to perpetrators, is designed, implemented, and sustained.

Learning from two systems: Greater Manchester and Victoria

Drawing on the experiences of practitioners and policymakers in both Greater Manchester and Victoria, we set out to examine how perpetrator interventions are incorporated within broader domestic abuse strategies, and how these approaches translate into day-to-day practice.

The research also explored how reforms in Victoria have evolved ten years on from implementation, providing insight into the realities of long-term system change and offering lessons for future policy development in Greater Manchester.

Between May 2023 and April 2025, the team conducted interviews with 26 practitioners and policymakers across Greater Manchester. This included interviews with 39 policy and practice stakeholders in Victoria between June and October 2024. The research was supported by a detailed case study of practice within one Greater Manchester borough, incorporating the voices of victim-survivors, alongside a knowledge-exchange visit in which practitioners from Greater Manchester spent time in Victoria.

Across both contexts, participants consistently emphasised the importance of senior-level leadership and cross-sector partnership working in driving reform. Executive buy-in and political bravery were seen as essential to providing clear strategic direction and sustaining momentum over time. Crucially, this political will was understood to require more than financial investment alone — it depended on long-term commitment of time, capacity, and resources for evaluation and learning.



Participants also highlighted the need to balance investment in victim-survivor support with interventions aimed at behaviour change among perpetrators. While both the Greater Manchester strategy and the Royal Commission in Victoria recognise perpetrator interventions as central to preventing future harm, practitioners in Greater Manchester expressed ongoing discomfort about directing resources toward perpetrators at a time when victim-survivors continue to face barriers to accessing support. At the same time, the inclusion of victim-survivor perspectives within policy development was widely welcomed in both regions.

From insight to influence: what the research is changing

The research surfaced a defining tension shared across both systems: how to balance accountability for harm with engagement and support that reduces the risk of future abuse.

In Greater Manchester, the strategy creates opportunities for centrally commissioned pathways into perpetrator interventions that address both individual behaviour and wider structural factors. However, participants also pointed to enduring challenges — particularly differing beliefs about the causes of domestic abuse and, therefore, what effective intervention should look like. Hesitancy about recognising perpetrators as people with complex needs, alongside the imperative to hold them accountable, continues to shape how policy is interpreted and delivered.

Through collaboration with Monash University and engagement with GMCA, the Centre's work has helped articulate these tensions in a way that supports informed decision-making, rather than avoiding difficult trade-offs. Research findings have been shared directly with GMCA to inform the ongoing development of perpetrator strategies and policy design, grounded in independent, comparative evidence. This is of particular relevance within the UK context considering the Government's recently published VAWG strategy, which seeks to streamline and expand behaviour change programmes.

Alongside an accessible research findings summary and public webinar, the team produced an in-depth report analysing current policy and practice in Greater Manchester, identifying opportunities to strengthen responses to perpetrators while maintaining a clear focus on victim-survivor safety. The borough-level case study report further provided practical insight into how strategy is experienced on the ground.

Beyond the regional level, the Centre has shared ongoing updates with the Home Office and Ministry of Justice and contributed evidence to the review of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 — extending the reach of the findings into national policy discussions.

Building a sustainable response to domestic abuse

Taken together, the research highlights that addressing domestic abuse — particularly perpetrator behaviour — requires navigating a set of interdependent and often sensitive policy choices. These include balancing rehabilitation and accountability, deciding when engagement should be voluntary or mandated, and ensuring consistent, equitable provision for both victim-survivors and perpetrators across the system.

Rather than offering a single model or solution, the Centre's work helps policymakers and practitioners make these choices more explicitly, supported by evidence and comparative learning. By examining what long-term reform looks like in practice, the research provides a foundation for more confident, transparent and sustainable policy development.

As Greater Manchester continues to refine its response to domestic abuse, and as national attention increasingly turns toward prevention and perpetrator accountability, the Centre's ongoing collaboration with GMCA, academic partners and central government will play a key role in shaping how evidence informs practice in one of the most complex areas of public policy.

ADDRESSING THE NEET CRISIS THROUGH CONNECTED DATA

Early identification of NEET and upstream interventions to improve outcomes for young people through the power of linked data.

A pathway from absence to long-term disadvantage

How can routinely collected public service data – spanning local authority, education, health and wider systems – be used to identify and support young people earlier?

The Milburn Review is shining a spotlight on the ~13% of 16–24-year-olds – nearly one million young people – classified as Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) each year in England. For many, this is not a short-term disruption, it is the start of long-term disadvantage. NEET is associated with poorer physical and mental health, lower life satisfaction, increased substance misuse and criminal justice involvement, and a lasting ‘scarring effect’ on employment opportunities. It also places a significant financial burden on public services, with an estimated lifetime cost of over £56,000 per individual.

England is also experiencing a school attendance crisis. Between 2015/16 and 2023/24, the overall absence rate in England rose by 57%, from 4.6% to 7.2%. In 2023/24, ~1.6 million children were persistently absent. Yet, there is limited understanding of how different patterns of absence across a child’s school career shape their risk of becoming NEET.

Turning connected data into early warning signals

We analysed the educational journeys of over 15,000 children in Bradford through our Connected Data Analytics programme. We combined Local Authority and Department for Education (DfE) data with the wider Connected West Yorkshire dataset. This enabled us to move beyond headline figures and uncover how absence varies over time, place, and population demographics.

We found that school absence is geographically concentrated. In some neighbourhoods, unauthorised absence rates were 22 times higher than in others, and in certain areas, a very small number of pupils accounted for most of the absence. These patterns also varied by ethnicity, gender, and age, highlighting the need for more targeted and locally tailored responses.

Crucially, absence proved to be a strong early signal of future risk. Persistently absent pupils were almost four times more likely to become NEET, and more than six times as likely to experience sustained periods of disengagement. The timing of absence also mattered: absence in the later years of secondary school (Years 10 and 11) was particularly strongly linked to later outcomes.

The type of absence also told an important story. Much of the risk associated with unauthorised absence arose through wider influences, including social disengagement, behavioural challenges, and adverse life circumstances.

Our work shows that patterns of absence can act as an early warning system, allowing public services to identify young people at risk of falling out of education, employment or training many years before it happens, and to tailor support accordingly.

We shared our research through national policy networks, particularly the Child of the North and Centre for Young Lives partnership, to ensure these insights reached those who could act on them. We helped translate technical findings into practical recommendations for government, local authorities and schools.

Shaping national policy and strengthening data-driven approaches

Our work highlights the potential for routinely collected data to fundamentally change how services identify and support vulnerable young people. Interventions can be earlier, more targeted, and more effective if we understand not just who is at risk, but also when and why.

Our findings have contributed directly to the evidence base underpinning key policy developments, including the 2026 Schools White Paper “Every Child Achieving and Thriving”. It reflects a growing emphasis on early identification of disengagement, better use of data across services, and a shift towards support-first approaches to tackling absence.

Our research also informed the Department for Education’s 2025 guidance on “Risk of NEET

Indicators” (RONI), which encourages local authorities to use data such as school absence patterns to identify and support at-risk young people more effectively.

The research has also shaped wider national conversations. It has contributed to evidence considered by the House of Commons Education Committee in its inquiry into persistent absence, and is informing the ongoing Milburn Review of NEET, helping to ensure that policy responses are grounded in a fuller understanding of the pathways into disengagement.

The work is also driving discussions about the value of linking administrative data across the whole of the UK. The Connected West Yorkshire dataset, which links education, health and social care records, has shown how joining up information across systems can reveal a much richer picture of children’s lives. This success has helped catalyse further investment in regional data infrastructure, including plans to develop Connected Yorkshire and Humber, expanding the connected data approach to a population of over five million people.

can also carry risks of further entrenching institutional shortcomings and so needs careful consideration.

Against this backdrop, we set out to examine different perspectives on how vulnerability is understood, valued, and operationalised across policing and public services.

Mapping viewpoints: engaging police, partners and service users

The research adopted Q methodology as a technique for studying people’s opinions, values, and beliefs. Participants – drawn from police, public service providers and service users – were asked to rank statements about vulnerability and policing according to their level of agreement or disagreement.

This participatory and comparative approach allowed the research team to move beyond individual experiences and identify patterns of shared understanding and tension. By analysing how different groups made sense of vulnerability, the study aimed to pinpoint areas of consensus, disagreement and misunderstanding that shape day-to-day practice and inter-agency working.

The findings revealed three distinct clusters of viewpoints. Despite important differences, participants across all three shared a belief that vulnerability is a meaningful concept and agreed that people labelled as “vulnerable” often do not recognise themselves in that way.

FROM LOCAL POLICING CHALLENGES TO INTERNATIONAL INSIGHT: RETHINKING VULNERABILITY

Based on extensive engagement with police, public service professionals and people with lived experience, this research interrogates how vulnerability is understood and applied across services. Published in the British Journal of Criminology, the project has inspired new applications of the methodology in international contexts and created resources as part of the Centre’s commitment to open research. The team is collaborating with a research group at the University of Buenos Aires who are adapting the methodology and design to the Argentinian context.

Understanding of vulnerability among services and users

After a period of sustained austerity, police in the UK are increasingly called upon to respond to complex social problems and interact with vulnerable people, often in collaboration with other services.

Although the concept of vulnerability is widely used in social and public policy, it remains ambiguous. It is not always clear that people and organisations have a shared understanding when discussing and using the term ‘vulnerability’. While a focus on vulnerability has the potential to enhance policy and practice, this



VIEWPOINT 1

Viewpoint 1 strongly endorsed a vulnerability focus for police and public services to help them collaborate in responding to situations of harm. It valued the police performing a dual role of supporting vulnerable people and fulfilling their traditional crime-fighting duties, highlighting their importance as first responders with necessary powers available to them.

“... we should be focusing on people with vulnerability, there is people in the community that are more vulnerable than others... it's right that we focus more time on them.”

POLICE, MALE, 37 YEARS, WHITE BRITISH

VIEWPOINT 2

The second viewpoint also saw vulnerability as a powerful and necessary concept but was more sceptical about the police's current capacity to respond effectively. Participants highlighted how vulnerability intersects with poverty, inequality and institutional racism, and raised concerns about privacy, accountability and excessive information sharing.

“Unless they are causing a problem, nobody cares... if they're just slowly committing suicide inside their house, who's going to know. There's no services going out to find this person.”

SERVICE USER, FEMALE, 57 YEARS, WHITE AND ASIAN BRITISH

VIEWPOINT 3

Viewpoint 3 strongly advocated for the police to focus on traditional law enforcement roles rather than social work. It saw gaps in public service provision as a significant issue for vulnerable individuals. The perspective emphasised individuals' personal responsibilities and contended that the police have become too lenient.

Together, these viewpoints illustrate why vulnerability remains a contested and challenging framework among services, yet also why it cannot be ignored.

Impact and reach

The impact of the study has extended well beyond its original UK context. The methodology and findings inspired leading Argentinian scholar Professor Emilio Ayos, who has applied the approach to debates about policing and vulnerability in Argentina following a visit to the Centre. This demonstrates both the international relevance of the research questions and the transferability of the methods used.

The Centre has also made the project's resources, including its [research design, statement sets and methodological reflections, openly available](#). This commitment to open research has already begun to support other scholars and practitioners interested in using Q methodology to explore contested concepts in policing and social policy.

Looking ahead: building on the evidence

By surfacing shared viewpoints and tensions, this research provides a foundation for more informed dialogue between police, partner agencies and communities. It offers practical insights for improving collaboration, designing interventions and avoiding unintended consequences of vulnerability-focused approaches.

For those interested in developing this work further, whether through comparative international studies, applied policing research or methodological innovation, the Centre's open resources and networks provide a platform for continued exploration of vulnerability and policing in the years ahead.

Further funding

Continuing the Centre team's collective success in securing new research funding that builds on Centre work as detailed in last year's report, the team has continued to use its infrastructure to provide a springboard for assisting colleagues across our network to secure new research grants. The Centre has provided support ranging from peer review, to letters of support, to administrative assistance in the grant set up process, and is acting as collaborative partner on a number of these new projects.

Overall in the past 12 months, 14 new awards with a total value of £1.18m have been secured building on Centre research, bringing the total during the lifetime of the Centre to £3.2m in new external awards, on top of the £1.59m in additional funding from the Centre's host institutions, the University of York and the University of Leeds.

Two further Centre-related projects were successful in securing UKRI Missions Accelerator funding through the Safer Streets programme: Centre Researcher Dr Rosie Campbell (University of York) leads the project "Protected? Do stalking protection orders, or other protective orders, keep women with lived experience of stalking safe in West Yorkshire?" (Mar26–Feb27, £152K); and Centre Affiliate Dr Anna Barker (University of Leeds), leads the project "Safer Parks by Design: Utilising Open Data to Enhance Safety for Women and Girls" (Nov25–Oct26, £249K, with an additional award to develop related online training via the RISE programme, £39K).

Centre Co-Director Professor Kate Brown (University of York) led a successful application for a PhD studentship (Sep25–Sep29) funded by the Stuart Hall Foundation and supported through the White Rose Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) and University of York. Meanwhile Centre Co-Director Professor Adam Crawford (University of York and University of Leeds) has worked with Dr Ali Malik (University of Leeds) to secure another collaborative PhD Studentship funded through the ESRC White Rose DTP (Oct26–Mar30).

Centre Deputy Director Professor Charlie Lloyd is Co-investigator on a new three-year Horizon Europe project led by the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus, a VPRC partner): "PRISM: Preventing drug market and traffic-Related violence through Innovative Solutions at the Municipal level" (Oct26–Dec29, €275K)

Early Career Researchers who have benefitted from the Centre's ECR Development Fund, have gone on to secure further funding related to their Centre-funded projects:

- **Dr Ali Malik, University of Leeds** – "Policing and community resilience in the context of climate change"
 - REDI Pilot Fund 24/25 – Climate resilience guidance, Jul24–Jun25, £13,386
 - ESRC Creating Opportunities through Local Innovation Fellowships (COLIF), Jun25–Mar26, £12,399
 - ESRC Impact Acceleration Account Award, University of Leeds, Jun25–Mar26, £9,999
- **Dr Rebecca Shaw, University of Leeds** – "Domestic abuse service providers and their stories"
 - ESRC Creating Opportunities through Local Innovation Fellowships, Jan–Dec25, £15,000
 - ESRC Impact Acceleration Account Award, University of Leeds, Nov24–Oct25, £15,000
- **Dr Thiago Oliveira, University of Manchester**
 - Comparing long-term impacts of police stops across generations in London, UCL Centre for Global City Policing, Apr–Dec25, £10,000
 - The impact of stop and search on mental health and crime involvement, Youth Endowment Fund, Sep25–Feb27, £196,505
- **Dr Sarah Shorrock, University of Leeds**
 - Roma voices for change, Research England Participatory Research Fund, University of Leeds, Nov25–Jul26, £9,951

Centre events and presentations

Date	Conference/host	Location	Presentation	Presenter(s)
Centre hosted events				
Jul25	Vulnerability and Policing International PhD Summer School	University of York	International PhD summer school with 21 attendees, 10 from overseas. The week-long programme covered a variety of topics with several Centre staff and Co-Is presenting/leading sessions, as well as a social programme for participants.	Led by Dr Laura Bainbridge, University of Leeds and Emma Williams, University of York Various presenters
Jul25	Centre public lecture	University of Leeds	Authoritarianism, Militarisation and Policing: A "Police Palimpsest"	Máximo Sozzo, Professor of Sociology of Law and Criminology at the National University of Litoral, Argentina
Jul25	Centre webinar	Online	County Lines, Policing and Vulnerability	Professor Ross Coomber, University of Liverpool; Dr Chris Devany, University of York
Jul25	Centre webinar	Online	Reframing the narrative of neurodivergent suspects of Counter Terrorism – The true victims of exploitation by algorithms	Dr Alice Siberry, Creased Puddle (Centre Translational Fellow)
Sep25	Centre annual conference	Leeds	Vulnerability and policing: reducing harm, strengthening justice	Keynotes from Professor Carlene Firmin, Durham University and Darren McGarvey. 23 sessions and 100+ speakers on a variety of topics c. 200 delegates across two days
Oct25	Centre public lecture	University of York	Public Opinion on Crime: Message Framing and Deliberative Democracy	Dr Tom McNeil, CEO, JABBS Foundation and Professor Ben Bradford, UCL (discussant)
Nov25	Centre webinar	Online	Policing, climate vulnerabilities and pathways of resilience	Dr Ali Malik, University of Leeds and Dr Anna Matczak, The Hague University of Applied Sciences
Dec25	Centre webinar	Online	Responding to domestic abuse – lessons from Greater Manchester and Victoria	Professor Emeritus Sandra Walklate, University of Liverpool; Dr Larissa Engelman, University of Leeds; Dr David Rowlands, University of Leeds
Jan26	Safer Streets workshop, convened by the Centre with the University of York and University of Leeds	Leeds	Brought together researchers, practitioners, and policy partners from across Yorkshire and the Humber, to develop collaborative research-practice initiatives that address the Safer Streets UKRI Mission Programme and related funding opportunities.	
Jan26	Consultation workshop – practitioners	Leeds	Workshops co-convened by West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership, to consult on the development of training from the Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse research	Facilitated by Dr Sarah Shorrock, Dr Rosie Campbell, Sam Clewarth (WYCA) and Dr Larissa Engelman
Feb26	Consultation workshop – managers	Online		
Feb26	Online child safety workshop – strategic leads	Online		

Date	Conference/host	Location	Presentation	Presenter(s)
Mar26	Film premiere	Leeds	'Crossing the Line: Rethinking the Alpha Victim' Film Premiere	Junior Smart OBE; Heather Wilson, Bradford Children and Families Trust; Dr Chris Devany, University of York; Dr Amy Loughery, University of Leeds; Dr Laura Bainbridge, University of Leeds
Apr26	Webinar	Online	Evidence-based approaches in Sex Work Liaison Officer roles	DCC Dan Vajzovic, Chair of the NPCC Sex Work Working Group; Professor Kate Brown, University of York; Dr Daisy Matthews, University of Leeds; Inspector Mark Lund, West Yorkshire Police
Jun26	Webinar	Online	Resolving crime without court: lessons from practice	Fionnuala Ratcliffe, Transform Justice; Ella Thomson, Transform Justice; Detective Sergeant Clare-Louise Anstey, Sussex Police; Detective Inspector Martin Alchin-Gadd, Sussex Police; Chair: Professor Adam Crawford, University of York and University of Leeds
External events				
Jun25	Policing and Community Mental Health conference, UCL, London	London, UK	Routine policing and mental health: Initial findings from an ethnographic study	Professor Martin Webber
Jun25	Stockholm Criminology Symposium	Stockholm, Sweden	Policing Vulnerability, Young People, and Exploitation in UK Drug Markets: Inconsistencies, Challenges, and Policy Lessons	Dr Chris Devany
Jun25	18th annual conference of the International Society for the study of drug policy (ISSDP)	Manchester, UK	The drugs cause one issue, but a bigger issue is the violence that comes with it': Drug market-related violence, policing and harm reduction	Professor Charlie Lloyd, Dr Tobias Kammersgaard
Jun25	2025 Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis Symposium	Nashville, USA	A New Approach to Measuring Police Involvement with Vulnerable People	Professor Dan Birks
Jul25	British Society of Criminology Conference	Portsmouth, UK	From abandonment to belonging: A relationships-based approach to homelessness intervention rooted in nurturing connection (based on Bradford Mapping-Homelessness research)	Dr David Rowlands
Jul25	British Society of Criminology Conference	Portsmouth, UK	Holding perpetrators to account while addressing the root causes of domestic abuse	Dr David Rowlands
Jul25	Maximising UK Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC) Hub	Online	Vulnerability: Handle with Care	Professor Kate Brown
Jul25	LEPH 2025 - 7th International Conference on Law Enforcement & Public Health	Ottawa, Canada	Law Enforcement, Vulnerability and Public Health Approaches: Opportunities and challenges to achieve meaningful change.	Dr Larissa Engelmann, Dr Claire Warrington, Professor Charlie Lloyd, Roz Cumming, Professor Isa Bartkowiak-Theron
Jul25	LEPH 2025 - 7th International Conference on Law Enforcement & Public Health	Ottawa, Canada	Mental health policing policy in England: Moving towards the 'Right care' or throwing the baby out with the bathwater?	Dr Claire Warrington

Date	Conference/host	Location	Presentation	Presenter(s)
Jul25	LEPH 2025 – 7th International Conference on Law Enforcement & Public Health	Ottawa, Canada	Out-of-treatment people using crack cocaine in an English town: the role for social policy and law enforcement	Dr Andrew Papworth
Jul25	LEPH 2025 – 7th International Conference on Law Enforcement & Public Health	Ottawa, Canada	Developing quality standards through co-production – a community response to online child sexual exploitation and abuse victimization & Education? What for what's important and how to make it happen	Dr Larissa Engelmann
Jul25	LEPH 2025 – 7th International Conference on Law Enforcement & Public Health	Ottawa, Canada	Introducing LEPH2026 Leeds, UK	Dr Larissa Engelmann, Dr Claire Warrington, Professor Charlie Lloyd, Dr Inga Heyman
Aug25	Nordic Police Research Seminar	Malmo, Sweden	Identifying 'Alpha Victims': Navigating Between Victims and Perpetrators in County Lines	Dr Chris Devany
Aug25	Why We Follow and Invoke the Law: Legitimacy and Public Engagement with the Police, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile	Santiago, Chile	“Should I call the police?” Exploring public attitudes on whether and when to invoke the police	Professor Ben Bradford
Sep25	European Society of Criminology Conference	Athens, Greece	Mental health and routine police work	Dr Ozgur Yardimci
Sep25	European Society of Criminology Conference	Athens, Greece	Q-methods study of vulnerability	Dr Ozgur Yardimci
Sep25	European Society of Criminology Conference	Athens, Greece	“Should I call the police?” Exploring public views on when to call the police in incidents involving people with vulnerabilities	Dr David Rowlands, Dr Christine A. Weirich, Professor Ben Bradford & Professor Adam Crawford
Sep25	Diversion in practice: implications for police reform and culture change	London, UK	Centre for Crime & Justice Studies Roundtable and presentation on the Centre's Diversion research	Professor Adam Crawford
Oct25	N8 Creative methods and policing research	Online	Creative methods in research on policing and vulnerability	Professor Kate Brown
Dec25	Tackling County Lines Conference (Westminster Insights)	Online	Case Study: Vulnerability and Policing County Lines	Dr Chris Devany
Dec25	ANZ Society of Criminology Conference	Brisbane, Australia	Should I call the police? Exploring public views on responses to incidents involving vulnerable people & contributed to two expert roundtables	Professor Adam Crawford
Dec25	Police Minimum Standards Workshop, hosted by the Adaptive Policing Lab at the Australian National University, in partnership with Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies (University of Tasmania)	Canberra, Australia	Should I call the police? Exploring public views on responses to incidents involving vulnerable people & contributed to two expert roundtables	Professor Adam Crawford

Date	Conference/host	Location	Presentation	Presenter(s)
Jan26	National Police Chiefs' Council Breaking Stigma and Exploitation Conference	London, UK	Policing Vulnerability: Learning from the Sex Work Liaison Officer Role	Professor Kate Brown, Dr Daisy Matthews
Mar26	National County Lines Coordination Centre (NCLCC) Annual Conference	Durham, UK	County Lines Policing and Vulnerability Project: Findings and Policy Recommendations	Dr Chris Devany
Mar 26	CareKnowledge	Online	Crossing the Line - Rethinking the Alpha-Victim	Dr Laura Bainbridge, Dr Amy Loughery
May26	Centre for Justice Innovation Conference	Birmingham, UK	Can specialist policing deliver justice? The Case of Sex Work Liaison Officers	Professor Kate Brown, Dr Daisy Matthews



Publications

Author(s)	Title	Journal/Website	Year
Academic publications			
McAlpine, A. & Birks, D.	Using agent-based modelling to enrich and experiment with anti-trafficking intervention theory	Book chapter in: Cockbain E., Sidebottom, A. & Zhang, S. (eds), Evaluating Anti-trafficking Interventions . University College London Press	2025
Bradford, B., Rowlands, D., Weirich, C. A., Crawford, A.	What service should police provide? Towards a minimum policing standard	Policing and Society	2025
Bradford, B., Weirich, C. A., Rowlands, D., Crawford, A.	Public confidence in the police: using opinion survey data to explore the current 'moment' in British policing	Policing and Society	2025
Relins, S., Birks, D., Lloyd, C.	Using Instruction-Tuned Large Language Models to Identify Indicators of Vulnerability in Police Incident Narratives	Journal of Quantitative Criminology	2025
Carlick, S., May-Chahal, C.	Children's access to child protection social work through mobile apps	The British Journal of Social Work	2025
Verlaan, T., Birks, D., van der Mei, R.	The Effect of Police Deployment Strategy on Emergency Response Times	Journal of Quantitative Criminology	2025
Shore, E.	Ready for school	Early Years Educator	2025
Devany, C., Kammersgaard, T.	County Lines and Exploitation in Drug Markets	Book chapter in: Bainbridge, L., Broad, R., Loughery, A. (eds), Understanding and Preventing 'Cuckooing' Victimisation , Routledge	2025
Rowlands, D., Weirich, C. A., Bradford, B., Crawford, A.	'Should I Call the Police?' Exploring Public Views on Whether to Invoke Police in Incidents Involving People with Vulnerabilities	The British Journal of Criminology	2025
Oliveira, T., Jackson, J.	Learning About the Binding Nature of the Law: Police Violence, Criminal Offending and Adolescent Legal Socialization	Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology	2025
Kyprianides A., Ali, A., Petnga-Wallace, P., Quinton, P., Oliveira, T. R.	Unintended Consequences of Early Exposure to Policing: Assessing Long-Term Effects of Police Stops During Adolescence in England and Wales	The British Journal of Criminology	2025
Bennett, K.	Repeatedly Missing Children: Multi-Agency Partnerships for Safeguarding and Prevention in England and Wales	Book, Emerald Publishing	2025
Beckett, H., Warrington, C., Bracewell, K.	Enhancing Children's Involvement in, and Influence over, Domestic Abuse and Family Violence Knowledge Creation through Trauma-informed Approaches to Research	Journal of Family Violence	2025
Kammersgaard, T., Lloyd, C., Devany, C., Bainbridge, L., Brown, K., Coomber, R.	Policing and drug market-related violence: competitive, internal and enforcement-related violence in UK County Lines	International Journal of Drug Policy	2026
Evans, R., Warburton, M., Birks, D., Ternes, P., Mon-Williams, M., Malleson, N.	The relationship between school characteristics and students becoming 'not in education, employment or training'	Royal Society Open Science	2026
Webber, M., Hughes, E., Kammersgaard, T., Lloyd, C., Papworth, A., Yardimci, Ö.	Mental health and routine police work: a systematic scoping review	Health & Justice	2026
Yardimci, Ö., Devany, C., Kammersgaard, T., Brown, K., Crawford, A.	Vulnerability and policing: The views of service providers and users	The British Journal of Criminology	2026
Siberry, A., Sian, K..	Deconstructing Discourses on Neurodivergence and Extremism: Challenging Practitioner Perspectives on Risk, Bias and Online Vulnerability	Neurodiversity	2026

Author(s)	Title	Journal/Website	Year
Blogs & online articles			
Birks, D.	Evidence-based policing and the rise of AI	Society of Evidence Based Policing	2025
Chandan, S. K. K.	Policing, vulnerability, and the value of connection: reflections from the Vulnerability and Policing International PhD Summer School 2025	Blog, Centre website	2025
Marsh-Smith, S.	Policing, vulnerability and justice: Can we really reduce harm and strengthen justice in a time of crisis?	Blog, Centre website	2025
McGarvey, D.	Darren McGarvey keynote address, Centre annual conference	Blog, Centre website	2025
Reports			
Walklate, S., Westmarland, N., Fitz-Gibbon, K., Engelmann, L., Rowlands, D., Yardimci, Ö.	Responding to family violence/domestic abuse: lessons from Greater Manchester (UK) and Victoria (Australia)	Summary findings report, Centre website	2025
Relins, S., Birks, D., Lloyd, C.	Developing AI tools to help quantify police involvement with vulnerable people	Summary findings report, Centre website	2025
Shaw, L., Warburton, M., Denny, S., Birks, D.	School absence, academic attainment, and young adults Not in Education, Employment or Training	Summary findings report, Centre website	2025
Shorrock, S.	Lost in translation: raising awareness of Roma culture within policing	Summary findings report, Centre website	2025
Bennett, K., Sutcliffe, G., McCarthy, B.	Recognising the risks and harms for repeat missing children from different residential environments through a child and practitioner lens	Summary findings report, Centre website	2025
Paul, A., Tomlinson, J., Cook, E., Halliday, S., Martin, R., Meers, J.	The increase in statutory duties on public officials to protect vulnerable people	Summary findings report, Centre website	2025
Siberry, A.	Reframing the narrative of neurodivergent suspects of Counter Terrorism: The true victims of exploitation by algorithms	Summary findings report, Centre website	2025
Malik, A., Bjørnstad, C.	Policing and community resilience in the context of climate change	Summary findings report, Centre website	2025
Canfield, M., Webber, M., Hughes, E.	Good Practice in Transfer of Care: A Rapid Review	Scottish Institute for Policing Research report	2025
Canfield, M., Webber, M., Hughes, E.	Good Practice in Transfer of Care: Insights from an International Rapid Review	Scottish Institute for Policing Research policy brief	2025
Shore, E., Reback, A.T., Birks, D.	Childhood vulnerability, crime and justice update: Strengthening protection, partnership, and prevention	Child of the North report update	2025
Dhir, A.	Racially Minoritised Women's experiences of technology facilitated sexual violence and reporting to the police	Summary findings report, Centre website	2026
Ratcliffe, F., Thomson, E.	Resolving crime without court: lessons from police practice	Summary findings report, Centre website	2026
Higham-James, N., Shorrock, S., Crawford, A.	Police use of diversion: The voices of people with lived experience of criminal justice	Summary findings report, Centre website	2026
Bradford, B., Rowlands, D., Peel, D., Weirich, C.A., Crawford, A.	The service that police officers want to provide, and why they struggle to deliver it	Summary findings report, Centre website	2026

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